

by calling upon the Administration to strengthen its efforts to protect American diplomats serving overseas and to bring stability to Sudan and the surrounding region.

We must pray for the Granville, O'Connell and McCabe Families and for John Granville, with a tremendous sense of appreciation for the great sacrifice that he made as he worked to promote peace in Africa. I take the liberty of honoring John's life and legacy by including the statement issued by his family, "John's life was a celebration of love, hope and peace. He will be missed by many people throughout the world whose lives were touched and made better because of his care."

#### HONORING FIRE CHIEF TIMOTHY REYNOLDS

#### HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 15, 2008*

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Timothy Reynolds, Fire Chief of the Wayne Fire Department, upon his retirement from a distinguished twenty-five-year career in public service.

For over two decades, since joining the Wayne Fire Department on June 24, 1982, Fire Chief Reynolds has served the citizens of Wayne, Michigan with distinction. Throughout his career with the department, Timothy served in numerous capacities having been promoted to Lieutenant in December 1994, Captain in 1997, and Fire Chief in 2003 where he served until December 14, 2007.

Timothy Reynolds worked tirelessly to further his education and sharpen his abilities in order to better serve the citizens of Wayne. Fire Chief Reynolds holds numerous degrees and certifications, including a degree in Fire Science Technology from Henry Ford Community College, a State of Michigan certified Paramedic license, and a Fire Inspector certification with the Michigan State Fire Marshal Office. Fire Chief Reynolds has served as the Emergency Program Manager for the City of Wayne and is an active member of the International Association of Arson Investigators, the Michigan Fire Chiefs Association, and the Southeastern Michigan Fire Chiefs Association. Among his many accomplishments, Fire Chief Reynolds remains most proud of his family, which includes his wife of twenty-nine years, Shannon, and their three children, Jennifer, Neil, and Maureen.

Madam Speaker, for twenty-five years Fire Chief Reynolds has faithfully served the citizen of Michigan. As he enters the next phase of his life, he leaves behind a legacy of dedication, honor, and courage. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Fire Chief Timothy Reynolds upon his retirement and recognizing his years of loyal service to our community and country.

#### 2007 UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE MEN'S LACROSSE TEAM

#### HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 15, 2008*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute

to the 2007 University of Delaware Men's Lacrosse team. In 2007 the Blue Hens' record was 13–6 in intercollegiate play, posting its finest season in school history and advancing all the way to the NCAA national semifinals.

The Blue Hens opened up the season with five straight wins, but began to struggle and by mid season they were just 6–5. In mid-April the Blue Hens rallied in the final quarter to defeat Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) foe Villanova 19–18, thus igniting the Blue Hens into winning seven straight games before the national semifinal loss.

Upon entering the tournament, the Blue Hens defeated the defending National Champions and the No. 2 ranked University of Virginia. Delaware then defeated the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) in the national quarterfinals at Navy to earn a spot in the Final Four.

The Blue Hens are coached by Bob Shillinglaw who has coached at Delaware for more than 30 years and is one of the Nation's most respected and successful coaches. This past year Coach Shillinglaw's team was led by a strong senior class, which included 2 All-Americans, Alex Smith and Jordan Hall and All-CAA selections Adam Zuder-Havens, Dan Deckelbaum, and Rob Smith.

I congratulate Coach Bob Shillinglaw and the 2007 University of Delaware Men's Lacrosse team for their success, and the pride they have shown as representatives of the University of Delaware and the First State.

#### FREEDOM FOR CARLOS JESUS MENENDEZ CERVERA

#### HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 15, 2008*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Carlos Jesus Menendez Cervera, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Menendez Cervera is a member of the Cuban Commission on Human Rights and National Reconciliation (CCDHRN), Executive Secretary of the Social Democratic Party and an interim director of the Independent Libraries Project. He is a peaceful pro-democracy activist who believes that Cuba must be free, that all Cubans must be free to learn, free to worship, and free to enjoy human rights and the Rule of Law. Accordingly, Mr. Menendez Cervera has been targeted by the totalitarian regime.

Because of his steadfast belief in freedom and democracy, Mr. Menendez Cervera has been harassed and detained numerous times. In February 2007 Mr. Menendez Cervera was detained and thrown into a police vehicle after he was seen exiting the U.S. Interests Section's Center for Information Services. He was locked inside the vehicle and interrogated for nearly an hour before being driven to a nearby police station. At the station, where a member of the Cuban political police further interrogated him, his short wave radio and a photocopy of a Miami Herald article he carried were confiscated. Regime thugs attempted to incriminate Mr. Menendez Cervera but he was eventually released.

According to the CCDHRN, plainclothes members of the regime's secret police ar-

rested Mr. Menendez Cervera on November 15, 2007. The CCDHRN said that Mr. Menendez Cervera was arrested when he entered the home of a well-known former prisoner of conscience, Mr. Hector Palacio, one of the "Group of 75" arrested as part of the Cuban dictatorship's heinous island-wide crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists in March 2003. Mr. Palacio, who was serving a 25-year sentence, was released from prison due to health concerns.

Mr. Menendez Cervera represents the best of the Cuban nation, a nation that, though oppressed for 49 years by a totalitarian tyranny, has never stopped fighting for its freedom and for the Rule of Law.

Madam Speaker, we must speak out and act against these arbitrary harassments and arrests, and the abominable disregard for human rights, human dignity, and human freedom just 90 miles from our shores. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Carlos Jesus Menendez Cervera and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE CELINA BOBCATS

#### HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 15, 2008*

Mr. HALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 2007 Celina Bobcat football team.

On December 22nd, 2007, the Celina Bobcats defeated the China Spring Cougars by a score of 21 to 14 to win the Class 3 AAA Division II State Championship at Texas Stadium. Under the leadership of Coach Butch Ford, the Bobcats finished the 2007 season with a perfect 16–0 record to claim a new state record 8th State Championship. This is a remarkable accomplishment that merits recognition.

With a record eight state titles and wins in two out of the last three championship games, the Bobcats have a heritage of excellence in football. This tradition of winning is proven by their historical rankings with more wins in the last 10, 20 and 40 years than any other team in Texas.

By halftime the Bobcats found themselves in their first halftime tie of the season with a close 7–7 game, and by the end of the third quarter it was still tied at 14–14. However, by the end of the fourth there was no doubt which team was champion. In a close game where every play counted, the Bobcats pulled ahead at the end to win by 7 points. This State Championship win marks another tremendous milestone in the continued excellence of Bobcat football, and I am proud of their accomplishment.

Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate the Bobcat players as well as their coaches, trainer, cheerleaders, the Las Gatitas dance squad, band members, teachers, school administration, and other community supporters for their success in both championship and regular season play. I ask each of my colleagues to join me in honoring Celina High School in their record-breaking 8th State Championship.